

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 ACDA-07 ERDA-05 AF-10 ARA-10 CIAE-00
DODE-00 EA-07 EUR-12 PM-05 H-01 INR-07 L-03
NASA-01 NEA-10 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OIC-02 SP-02 PA-01
PRS-01 OES-07 SS-15 USIA-06 ISO-00 /132 W
-----119678 192200Z /66

R 191726Z JUL 77

FM USMISSION GENEVA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9384
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
USNATO 4419
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 GENEVA 5991

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, CCD

SUBJECT: CCD: US-USSR BILATERALS ON CW: FOURTH ROUND WRAPUP

1. SUMMARY: FOURTH ROUND OF BILATERAL CONSULTATIONS ON
CW WHICH ENDED JULY 18 WERE CONDUCTED IN A CORDIAL
BUSINESS-LIKE WAY. SOVIET DEL WAS PLAINLY INSTRUCTED
TO LISTEN TO WHAT US SIDE HAD TO PROPOSE, SEEK CLARIFICATIONS
WHERE NECESSARY AND MAKE NO DEPARTURES FROM PREVIOUS SOVIET
POSITIONS. THEY TOLD US ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS THAT THEY
REGARDED OUR PROPOSALS AS "SERIOUS" AND WOULD BE GIVING
THEM THOROUGH STUDY IN MOSCOW. NEXT ROUND TENTATIVELY SET
TO BEGIN IN MID-AUGUST SUBJECT TO SOVIET AGREEMENT. END SUMMARY

2. DURING FOURTH ROUND OF US-SOVIET BILATERALS ON THE PROHIBITION
OF CHEMICAL WEAPONS HELD IN GENEVA JULY 7-18, US MADE
COMPREHENSIVE PROPOSAL SETTING FORTH KEY ELEMENTS OF A
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JOINT INITIATIVE TO BE PRESENTED TO THE CCD. SIGNIFICANT
ASPECTS OF THESE MEETINGS ARE SUMMARIZED BELOW.

3. ON QUESTION OF SCOPE OF A CW CONVENTION, SOVIETS
INDICATED THAT GENERALLY WE WERE IN AGREEMENT. HOWEVER,
ON THE QUESTION OF TOXICITY THRESHOLDS, THEY MAINTAINED
THEIR POSITION THAT ONLY ONE THRESHOLD IS NEEDED, I.E.
THAT WHICH DIVIDES POTENTIAL LETHAL AGENTS FROM THOSE

CHEMICALS WHICH HAVE LITTLE POTENTIAL AS LETHAL AGENTS. THIS VIEW IS AT ODDS WITH OURS WHICH CALLS FOR AN ADDITIONAL THRESHOLD DIVIDING SUPER TOXIC CHEMICALS FROM THOSE OF INTERMEDIATE TOXICITY WITH THE FORMER BEING SUBJECT TO TIGHTER VERIFICATION PROCEDURES.

4. ON OTHER KEY ASPECTS OF OUR PROPOSAL THE SOVIET SIDE ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT CONFIDENCE BUILDING MEASURES, THE FORMATION OF A COUNSULTATIVE COMMITTEE, AND THE FORM OF A JOINT INITIATIVE BUT DID NOT GIVE ANY STRONG CLUES AS TO THE ACCEPTABILITY OF OUR PROPOSALS. ON THE FORM OF THE JOINT INITIATIVE SOVIET DEL HEAD (LIKHATCHEV) NOTED AT THE FINAL SESSION THAT SOVIETS WOULD HAVE TO WEIGH ADVANTAGES OF "TREATY LANGUAGE", "KEY ELEMENTS" OR PERHAPS "A THIRD FORMULATION".

5. PREDICTABLY, VERIFICATION WAS THE ISSUE ON WHICH OUR DIFFERENCES WERE THE SHARPEST. ONE SOVIET EXPERT (DUMAEV) TROTTED OUT EARLIER SOVIET ARGUMENT THAT CURRENT REMOTE MONITORING CAPABILITIES ARE ADEQUATE FOR VERIFICATION OF BANS ON PRODUCTION AND TESTING. LIKHATCHEV MADE STANDARD PITCH FOR VERIFICATION SYSTEMS BASED ON NATIONAL CONTROL AND CHIDED US FOR LAYING STRESS ON INTERNATIONAL CONTROL, IGNORING NATIONAL MEANS OF VERIFICATION. US DELEGATION HEAD (FISHER) COUNTERED BY SUGGESTING THAT SOVIETS THEMSELVES MIGHT NOT BE HAPPY WITH VERIFICATION
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SYSTEM WHICH AMOUNTED ESSENTIALLY TO SELF-POLICING BY PARTIES TO TREATY AND NOTED THAT CERTAIN INTERNATIONAL CONTROL ASPECTS HAD BEEN MENTIONED IN SOVIET STATEMENTS ON VERIFICATION.

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ACTION ACDA-10

INFO OCT-01 ERDA-05 AF-10 ARA-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00 EA-07
EUR-12 PM-05 H-01 INR-07 IO-13 L-03 NASA-01
NEA-10 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OIC-02 SP-02 PA-01 PRS-01
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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 GENEVA 5991

6. IN SIDE CONVERSATION FOLLOWING COMPLETION OF PRESENTATION OF US POSITION, SOVIET DEPUTY DELEGATION CHIEF (KRASSULIN) TOLD US DEPUTY (FLOWERREE) THAT SOVIETS REGARDED OUR PROPOSAL AS A SERIOUS ONE. HE THOUGHT WE WERE REASONABLY CLOSE TOGETHER ON SCOPE AND ALTHOUGH SOVIETS WOULD HAVE MANY QUESTIONS ON OTHER ASPECTS OF US PROPOSAL, PROBLEMS IN MOST AREAS DID NOT SEEM INSURMOUNTABLE. HOWEVER, VERIFICATION WOULD BE A MAJOR PROBLEM. WHEN ASKED WHAT HE WOULD THINK OF MAKING A REPORT TO THE CCD NEAR THE END OF THE SUMMER SESSION ON THOSE ASPECTS ON WHICH WE HAD REACHED AGREEMENT, KRASSULIN SAID, "WITHOUT AGREEMENT ON SCOPE AND VERIFICATION THERE CAN BE NO JOINT INITIATIVE."

7. ONLY EXCEPTION TO BUSINESS-LIKE CHARACTERIZATION OF TALKS WAS OBVIOUS SOVIET ATTEMPT TO STRING THEM OUT BEYOND POINT WHERE ADDITIONAL MEETINGS COULD CONTRIBUTE TO PROGRESS. QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS BY SOVIET SIDE IN LAST THREE SESSIONS WERE GENERALLY REHASH OF WELL KNOWN SOVIET CONFIDENTIAL

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POSITIONS. IN DISCUSSING FINAL COMMUNIQUE ON THURSDAY JULY 14, LIKHACHEV SAID THAT NEXT MEETING SHOULD BE HELD MONDAY, JULY 18. IT WOULD LOOK GOOD IN COMMUNIQUE, HE SAID, TO SHOW THAT TALKS LASTED FROM JULY 7 TO JULY 18. (WE ALSO NOTED TO OURSELVES THAT IT WOULD GIVE SOVIET EXPERTS EXTRA WEEKEND IN GENEVA). DESIRE TO STRING OUT BILATERAL TALKS ON ARMS CONTROL ISSUES IN THIS WAY HAS BEEN STANDARD SOVIET PRACTICE HERE AND WE ATTRIBUTE NO SPECIAL SIGNIFICANCE TO IT IN THIS INSTANCE.

8. IN FINAL SESSION LIKHACHEV REMARKED ON THOROUGHNESS AND CLARITY OF US ANSWERS TO SOVIET QUESTIONS AND SAID THAT HIS GOVERNMENT WOULD GIVE US PROPOSAL CAREFUL STUDY. ALTHOUGH HE WAS NOT PREPARED TO AGREE TO A STARTING DATE FOR THE NEXT ROUND, LIKHACHEV SEEMED TO FIND THE US SUGGESTION TO RESUME IN GENEVA AUGUST 16 REASONABLE AND SAID HE WOULD PASS IT ON TO MOSCOW. VANDEN HEUVEL

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